



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, November 4, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

New Jersey:

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kuperus moderated a public Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) information meeting in Rahway, NJ on Tuesday, October 26. Residents from Rahway and the neighboring town of Linden were invited to the meeting to learn about the ALB infestation and to discuss how the infestation will impact the four towns within the ALB quarantined area. This was the first public meeting held for the towns of Rahway and Linden. The meeting went well. There was good public participation and media coverage. One of the main concerns addressed at this meeting was the disposal of the infested chips. Secretary Kuperus assured the participants that USDA research has shown chipping to be an effective mechanism for infested tree disposal. However, due to the large tonnage of wood chips that will be generated from the tree removal process, NJ Forest Service are pursuing obtaining a special permit to burn the chips at the Rahway incinerator. The NJ Public Broadcasting network filmed the meeting and interviewed the state and federal ALB staff. The NJN story aired on Wednesday, October 27. A short news brief was also printed in the Wednesday's edition of the Home News Tribune.

Field surveys continued this week delimiting the infestation. To date about 25,000 trees have been surveyed with 406 infested trees detected. The main core of the infestation, with trees showing exit holes and egg sites, remains about 1 square mile in size. Seven new compliance agreements were issued this week for a total of 55 agreements in place.

The first phase of tree removal is scheduled to begin the week of November 29. The Township of Woodbridge will be hosting a public meeting and holding a press

conference to announce the beginning of the tree removal process. The dates for both events have not been finalized.

New York:

The New York ALB Outreach personnel are coordinating with the Nature Conservancy and the New York City Division of Parks and Recreation in setting up volunteer survey groups in three NY City Parks - Prospect Park, Forest Park, and Central Park. The first group conducted survey efforts in Prospect Park on October 23.

Secretary Ann Veneman is scheduled to visit New York in the near future. The program provided an ALB briefing to the executive communications writer to update the Secretary on the program's status.

Illinois:

The USDA Forest Service is holding a forum commemorating 100 years of conservation and restoration of forests on November 8 - 9, in Chicago. There will be about 100 invited participants, representing a broad cross section of interests, including congressional leaders, representatives from agency partners and interest groups, academicians, state and local government, teachers, youth, artists, media, and Forest Service leaders. As part of the forum, USDA Forest Chief, Dale Bosworth will be provided a tour of the Chicago ALB Eradication Project.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Federal Register (FR) Notices from the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS):

October 26, 2004, the FR posted two notices from APHIS.

APHIS published the Notice of receipt of petitions and request for comments on the listing of the entire genus of *Caulerpa*, or alternatively, listing of the entire species of *Caulerpa taxifolia* (Mediterranean clone), which is a marine algal species currently on the list of Federal noxious weeds. In addition to the issues raised in the petition, APHIS listed some other policy issues for



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discussion including whether they should consider listing additional species of marine algae.

APHIS also announced the availability of an environmental assessment and request for comments for field release of a nonindigenous fly (*Fergusonia turneri*) and its obligate nematode & (*F. quinquenerviae*) as a gall forming biocontrol agent for melaleuca.